

16934-1US

- 21 -

WE CLAIM:

1. A method for providing a platform-independent audio/video service, said method comprising:
providing an audio/video signal for transmission;
encapsulating said audio/video signal into a data packet, said data packet to be read using a sequence of processing operations suitable for viewing an audio/video signal;
delivering said encapsulated audio/video signal; and
wherein said sequence of processing operations is independent of a given type of processing unit and thereby enables the provision of a platform-independent audio/video service.
2. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said sequence of processing operations is compiled and is comprised in a software application.
3. The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein said providing an audio/video signal comprises providing a list of a plurality of users and selecting a given user from said provided list.
4. The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein said software comprises a Web browser.
5. The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein said providing an audio/video signal comprises providing a list of a plurality of users and selecting a given user from said provided list.

.16934-1US

- 22 -

6. The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein said providing said list further comprises obtaining said list of a plurality of users from an audio/video server.
7. The method as claimed in claim 6, further comprising connecting to said audio/video server via a Web browser, further wherein said providing said list is performed in response to said connecting.
8. The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein said connecting to said audio/video server comprises providing a login and password for performing an authentication.
9. The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein providing said list of a plurality of users is performed according to said authentication.
10. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said sequence of processing operations is implemented in a chip.
11. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said encapsulating further comprises compressing the audio/video signal according to a compression protocol, and further wherein said delivering of said encapsulated audio/video signal further comprises decompressing said encapsulated audio/video signal according to said protocol.
12. The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein said encapsulating comprises evaluating the availability of audio/video resources for providing said

16934-1US

- 23 -

audio/video signal and performing a packet split, an encapsulation and an encoding of said audio signal and a packet split, an encapsulation and an encoding of said video signal according to said availability.

13. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said audio/video signal to be transmitted to a given user further comprises a text message.
14. The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising delivering said encapsulated audio/video signal to a group of users from said plurality of users.
15. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said delivering to said user comprises detecting if said user is logged on and further wherein said delivering comprises providing said encapsulated audio/video signal to said user if said user is logged on.
16. The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein said delivering further comprises checking if it is possible to leave an audio/video message to said user if said user is not logged on or if another audio/video signal is being delivered from another user.
17. The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein said delivering further comprises leaving an audio/video message to said user.
18. The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein said welcome message comprises at least one of a video message, an audio message and a text message.

16934-1US

- 24 -

19. The method as claimed in claim 17, further comprising providing an answering machine absence message and wherein said providing of said audio/video message to said user is performed in response to said providing said answering machine absence message.
20. The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein said answering machine absence message comprises at least one of a video message, an audio message and a text message.
21. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said delivering further comprises checking if said user is a registered user and providing a message to said user for inviting said user to perform a registration if said user is not registered .
22. The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein said delivering comprises providing an alert to said user if said user is logged on.
23. The method as claimed in claim 22, further comprising providing said encapsulated audio/video signal to said user if said user responds to said alert.
24. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said sequence of processing operations is comprised in a Flash player for displaying said audio/video signal.
25. A method for providing a platform-independent audio/video service to a user using a processing unit connected to a network, said method comprising:

said user performing a registration check for said service;

16934-1US

- 25 -

providing an audio/video signal from an audio/video source;

producing an audio/video output from said audio/video signal using a sequence of processing operations that is independent of operating systems running said user's processing unit; and

displaying said audio/video output to said user.

26. The method as claimed in claim 25, wherein said providing an audio/video signal further comprises compressing the audio/video signal according to a compression protocol, and further wherein said producing audio/video outputs further comprises decompressing said encapsulated audio/video signal according to said protocol.
27. The method as claimed in claim 26, wherein said encapsulating comprises evaluating the availability of audio/video resources for providing said audio/video signal and performing a packet split, an encapsulation and an encoding of said audio signal and a packet split, an encapsulation and an encoding of said video signal according to said availability.
28. The method as claimed in claim 26, further comprising loading said compression protocol into each user's processing unit.
29. The method as claimed in claim 25, further comprising delivering said audio/video signal from at least one user to another user.

16934-1US

- 26 -

30. The method as claimed in claim 28, further comprising encapsulating said audio/video signal into a data packet prior to said delivery.
31. The method as claimed in claim 25, further comprising storing said audio/video output into an audio/video message.
32. The method as claimed in claim 30, further comprising alerting a user that an audio/video message is stored.
33. The method as claimed in claim 25, further comprising loading said sequence of processing operations into each user's processing unit.
34. The method as claimed in claim 25, further comprising paying a fee for at least one of accessing said web site and displaying said audio/video outputs.
35. The method as claimed in claim 25, wherein said displaying further comprises displaying advertisement.
36. The method as claimed in claim 35, further comprising paying a fee for displaying said advertisement.
37. The method as claimed in claim 25, wherein said audio/video signal to be transmitted to a given user further comprises a text message.
38. The method as claimed in claim 25, wherein said user comprises a set of users from plurality of users,

16934-1US

- 27 -

thereby providing said audio/video service to said set of users.

39. The method as claimed in claim 38, wherein said providing an audio/video signal from an audio/video source comprising providing a plurality of audio video/signals from a corresponding plurality of audio/video sources.
40. The method as claimed in claim 25, wherein said performing a registration check comprises accessing a web site.
41. The method as claimed in claim 25, wherein said sequence of processing operations is comprised in a Flash player for displaying said audio/video output.
42. A method for providing a platform-independent audio/video service to a plurality of users, said method comprising:
- providing an audio/video signal to be transmitted to a user from at least one of said plurality of users;
- encapsulating said audio/video signal into a data packet, said data packet to be read by a web browser comprising a module for delivering a video signal;
- delivering said encapsulated audio/video signal to said user via said web browser; and
- wherein said module is comprised in said web browser by default.

16934-1US

- 28 -

43. A method for providing a platform-independent audio/video service to a user using a processing unit connected to a network, said method comprising:
- said user accessing a web site to perform a registration check for said service;
- providing an audio/video signal from an audio/video source;
- producing an audio/video output from said audio/video signal using a web browser comprising a module for delivering a video signal; and
- displaying said audio/video output to said user through said web browser.
44. The method as claimed in claim 43, wherein said web browser comprises a Flash player for displaying said audio/video output.